

AMERICAN ARCHIVES:

Fifth Series.

CONTAINING

A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

OF

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

FROM THE

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, JULY 4, 1776,

TO THE

DEFINITIVE TREATY OF PEACE WITH GREAT BRITAIN, SEPTEMBER 3, 1783.

BY PÉTER FORCE.

VOLUME I.

PUBLISHED BY M. ST. CLAIR CLARKE AND PETER FORCE,

UNDER AUTHORITY OF ACTS OF CONGRESS, PASSED ON THE SECOND DAY OF MARCH, 1833,
AND ON THE THIRD DAY OF MARCH, 1843.

WASHINGTON, APRIL, 1848.

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1848,
BY PETER FORCE,
IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

stood by Mr. *Adams* or myself, which is not the case. He knows my esteem and friendship for him. Adieu.

Your affectionate and obedient servant,

SAML. CHASE.

To Brigadier-General *Arnold*.

P. S. In what condition is our Navy on the Lakes?

ABRAHAM CLARK TO REV. JAMES CALDWELL.

Philadelphia, August 7, 1776.

MY DEAR FRIEND: Your favour of the 26th *July*, from the *German-Flats*, I received, and the next day after wrote you by post; at the same time received a letter from Colonel *Dayton*, of the 25th, and since that I received one the Colonel wrote the 20th from *Fort Stanwix*, to which I wrote a long answer yesterday, which I have yet by me, as the President will write this day to General *Schuyler*, and hath engaged to send it in his packet, in which I purpose to get this a place. If this should find you at the *German-Flats*, and the Colonel is at *Fort Stanwix*, I hereby authorize you to open and read his letter, and then forward it to him, as I intend my letters to either of you will be considered as intended for both.

We have no news to-day. This morning one of our large frigates was launched; two others, of twenty-four and twenty-six guns, were some time ago launched, and are rigging.

I regret my being moved to this Congress. I think I should have been of more service in our own Province than here. I remember what *Cæsar* said in passing the *Alps*: "That he had rather be the first in a small village in the *Alps*, than the second in *Rome*." This will not exactly apply to myself, as I did not esteem myself the first in the *Jersey* Convention, and I am sure I am far below the second here. It is in some degree applicable.

In your letter you tell me of our feasting here. Indeed we have plenty; but I dare say you have the best feast: my want of health will not suffer me to relish delicacies.

News, as far as my present station will permit, I have given in the letter to the Colonel. More I might in confidence say, were either of you present; but I dare not risk more in a letter. I think I informed you in my last, that money to pay your regiment was sent forward, and the matter relative to your regiment's returning to the *Jerseys* in the fall, was not proper to mention yet, from the uncertain issue of the war to the northward.

I am, dear sir, most affectionately yours,

ABRA. CLARK.

To the Rev. *James Caldwell*, Chaplain of a Battalion at *German-Flats* or *Fort Stanwix*.

P. S. I don't recollect the death of any of your hearers since you left us, but *Thomas Williams*, who died two weeks ago, or something more.

A. C.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY (NEW-JERSEY) COMMITTEE.

On *Wednesday*, the 7th instant, the Committee of Inspection for the County of *Cumberland*, in the State of *New-Jersey*, the Officers of the Militia, and a great number of other inhabitants, having met at *Bridgetown*, went in procession to the Court-House, where the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of *New-Jersey*, and the Treason Ordinance, were publicly read, and unanimously approved of. These were followed with a spirited Address by Dr. *Elmer*, Chairman of the Committee; after which the Peace Officers' staves, on which were depicted the King's Coat of Arms, with other ensigns of royalty, were burnt in the street. The whole was conducted with the greatest decency and regularity.

The following, being the substance of the before mentioned Address, is published at the particular request of the Committee and all who were present:

"Gentlemen of the Committee, Officers of the Militia, and Gentlemen spectators:

"From what has now been read, you see the long wished-for, but much dreaded period has arrived, in which the connexion between *Great Britain* and *America* is totally dissolved, and these Colonies declared Free and Independent States. As this is an event of the greatest importance, it must afford satisfaction to every intelligent person to reflect,

that it was brought about by unavoidable necessity on our part, and has been conducted with a prudence and moderation becoming the wisest and best of men.

"With the Independence of the *American* States a new era in politicks has commenced. Every consideration respecting the propriety or impropriety of a separation from *Britain*, is now entirely out of the question; and we have now no more to do with the King and people of *England*, than we have with the King and people of *France* or *Spain*. No people under Heaven were ever favoured with a fairer opportunity of laying a sure foundation for future grandeur and happiness than we. The plan of Government established in most States or Kingdoms of the world, has been the effect of chance or necessity: ours of sober reason and cool deliberation. Our future happiness or misery, therefore, as a people, will depend entirely upon ourselves. If, actuated by principles of virtue and genuine patriotism, we make the welfare of our country the sole aim of all our actions; if we intrust none but persons of abilities and integrity with the management of our publick affairs; if we carefully guard against corruption and undue influence in the several departments of Government; if we are steady and zealous in putting the laws in strict execution;—the spirit and principles of our new Constitution, which we have just now heard read, may be preserved for a long time. But if faction and party spirit, the destruction of popular Governments, take place, anarchy and confusion will soon ensue, and we shall either fall an easy prey to a foreign enemy, or some factious and aspiring demagogue, possessed of popular talents and shining qualities—a *Julius Cæsar* or an *Oliver Cromwell*—will spring up among ourselves, who, taking advantage of our political animosities, will lay violent hands on the Government, and sacrifice the liberties of his country to his own ambitious and domineering humour. God grant that neither of these may ever be the unhappy fate of this or any of the *United States*. To prevent which, while we are striving to defend ourselves against the unjust encroachments of a foreign and unnatural enemy, let us not neglect to keep a strict and jealous eye over our own internal police and Constitution. Let the fate of *Greece*, *Rome*, *Carthage*, and *Great Britain*, warn us of our danger; and the loss of liberty in all those States, for want of timely guarding against the introduction of tyranny and usurpation, be a standing admonition to us, to avoid the rock on which they have all been shipwrecked.

"Let us, as honest citizens and sincere lovers of our country, exert ourselves in the defence of our State and in support of our new Constitution; but while we strive to vindicate the glorious cause of liberty on the one hand, let us, on the other hand, carefully guard against running into the contrary extreme of disorder and licentiousness.

"In our present situation, engaged in a bloody and dangerous war with the power of *Great Britain*, for the defence of our lives, our liberties, our property, and everything that is dear and valuable, every member of this State who enjoys the benefits of its civil government, is absolutely bound, by the immutable law of self-preservation, the laws of *God* and of society, to assist in protecting and defending it. This is so plain and self-evident a proposition, that I am persuaded every person here present makes it the rule of his conduct on all occasions; and consequently, in a time of such imminent danger, will be extremely careful, at our ensuing election, not to intrust any one with the management of our publick affairs who has not, by his vigilance and activity in the cause of liberty, proved himself to be a true friend to his country. The success, gentlemen, of our present glorious struggle wholly depends upon this single circumstance. For though the situation and extent of the *United States of America* and our numberless internal resources, are sufficient to enable us to bid defiance to all *Europe*, yet should we be so careless about our own safety as to intrust the affairs of our State, while the bayonet is pointed at our breasts, to persons whose conduct discovers them to be enemies to their country, or whose religious principles will not suffer them to lift a hand for our defence, our ruin will inevitably follow.

"As it is impossible for any one possessed of the spirit of a man, who is a friend to the *United States*, and whose conscience does not furnish him with an excuse to stand by, an idle spectator, while his country is struggling and bleeding in her own necessary defence, all such inactive persons ought therefore to be shunned as enemies or despised as cowards.